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rivalry of armaments has transferred itself largely to the sea, where the navy of this country is constantly in evidence. Our government can therefore no longer say with any sincerity that this is a matter "into which it has no claim to enter." We are already in the thing itself, up to our ears; and if there is to be any arrest of armaments, it cannot take place without this country's coöperation. The suggestion of President Roosevelt in his recent Message, and of Secretary Bonaparte in his Annual Report, that no more vessels need be ordered constructed at the present time, will remain only a suggestion if Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan and Russia continue their naval expansion, as they will surely do unless some general agreement is come to for a simultaneous limitation.

For these reasons our government ought to go into the new Hague Conference determined and prepared to take an advanced position and to do the most serious work on the whole problem. The big trio of questions with which the Conference will have to deal will be that of a general treaty of obligatory arbitration, the creation of a regular congress of the nations, and a limitation of military and naval expenses. Other questions will demand attention, but these three will constitute the centre of interest. Our government is preparing to take advanced ground on the first two, and will, it is confidently hoped, be able to secure most important results in both directions for "the material and moral welfare of humanity." It can do the same in the matter of armaments if it takes hold of the subject in sincerity and earnestness.

What was accomplished by the Portsmouth Conference, when all the world was standing aghast and helpless before the awful ravages and butcheries of the Manchurian war, has revealed to us and to all men the enormous beneficent power which our government is able to wield in world affairs whenever it is ready to take a strong and rational lead. The most urgent problem of the nations to-day, try to dodge it as one may, is, by nearly universal consent, just this problem of an arrest of the armaments which constitute the chief burden and menace to humanity. To bring the nations to a halt in this matter, to a united effort to relieve themselves from the burdens and perils of their self-imposed "armed peace," would be an achievement before which the Portsmouth deed, great and praiseworthy as it was, would pale into insignificance.

The time has come, and more than come, for the first step to be taken toward the accomplishment of this momentous task. We believe that our own government, by reason of its character and present standing before the world, is peculiarly marked out as the divinely commissioned agent to inaugurate the movement. Shall the opportunity be missed? If so, the initiative will be taken elsewhere. Nothing fuller

of significance has been uttered recently in the political world than the remarks of the new British Prime Minister, in his campaign speech, on this very subject:

"As the principle of peaceful arbitration extends, it becomes one of the highest tasks of statesmanship to adjust these armaments to the new and happier conditions. No nobler rôle could this great country have than at the fitting moment to put itself at the head of a league of peace-through whose instrumentality this great work could be effected."

This utterance has set all Europe to thinking and talking, pro and con. And all Europe, we incline to believe, will think and talk itself quickly round to Sir Henry's mind, that these armaments must be speedily adjusted to the new conditions. That means limitation; and it means reduction. That the head of the British government, a practical statesman, who is being overwhelmingly supported by the British people, should have let this sentiment pass his lips at the very opening of his election campaign, is sufficient evidence of the urgent and commanding nature of the question. Is Sir Henry to take the lead at The Hague in the effort to accomplish this "one of the highest tasks of statesmanship"? He could do nothing greater for the honor of his country and the welfare of humanity. If the President of the United States would take the same stand as the British Premier has done, and when the time comes instruct the men whom he sends to The Hague to accomplish something in the way of limitation of armaments, the thing would be done.

The Third International American Conference.

The date of the third International Conference of the American Republics has already been fixed. At the regular meeting of the Council of Administration of the International Bureau of the American Republics, held on the 6th of December last in the Diplomatic Hall of the State Department at Washington, the Brazilian Ambassador, Joaquin Nabuco, on behalf of his government, extended an invitation to the American Republics to meet at Rio Janeiro on the 21st of July next, for the third International American Conference. The invitation was accepted unanimously, and arrangements have begun to be made for the Conference.

The governments represented in the meeting of the Council of Administration of the Bureau were the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Haiti, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Chile, Bolivia, Guatemala, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Paraguay and Ecuador—fifteen in all. Secretary Root presided, and in accordance with the instructions of the Council has appointed the following committees:

(1) A committee to prepare the program of the Conference. The members of this committee are

the diplomatic representatives at Washington of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile and Mexico. (2) A committee to prepare the preliminary regulations of the Conference. On this committee have been placed the representatives of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru. (3) A committee to propose to the Conference a plan for the reorganization of the Bureau of the American Republics as a permanent institution. This committee is composed of the representatives of Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela. Mr. Root named no representative of the United States on any of the committees, thus manifesting his intention to avoid all appearance of anything like domination on the part of the United States.

It will be noticed that this third Pan-American Congress is to follow the second one, held at Mexico City in 1901-02, after an interval of less than five years, whereas it was twelve years between the first and second Conferences. The Mexican Conference left many questions unfinished, and several of the conclusions reached have been only partially carried out. This probably accounts in part for the fact that another conference has been felt to be necessary so early; but there is a deeper and more significant reason. The calling of this third conference within less than five years since the last one illustrates the extraordinary rapidity with which international problems are to-day developing and demanding united attention on the part of the various sections of the world. The second Hague Conference, which is expected to meet this year, though the date has not yet been announced, is, though on a greater scale, not more significant in this direction than this approaching meeting of representatives of all the American States in South America. They are but different expressions of the same movement which is rapidly drawing the whole world into its powerful current.

It is not improbable that the Rio Janeiro meeting may result in the organization of the Pan-American Conference as a permanent institution, which will hereafter meet automatically at regular intervals of about five years. The programme of the meeting anticipates the reorganization of the Bureau of the American Republics on a permanent basis. This will almost certainly require for its effectual carrying out the giving to the Conference itself a permanent character. A permanent International American Conference, with an administrative bureau such as is proposed, would be a great step toward the elucidation, development and consolidation of the numerous mutual interests of the nations of the Western world. Such an American federation would not in the least interfere with the wider world-federation, which in some form will receive serious consideration at the approaching Hague Conference. On the contrary, it would serve as a striking model therefor, and would

powerfully stimulate the operation of the forces which are working steadily and effectively toward that great end.

The Moroccan Conference.

The consideration of chief interest in connection with the Conference in session at Algeciras, Spain, since the 16th of January, is that there is to be no war between France and Germany over their respective claims touching Morocco. There has been some silly talk of war in a certain section of the press, and there was a good deal of excitement and some solicitude at the time of the German Emperor's visit to the Sultan of Morocco in March last. But when an agreement had been reached to hold an international conference over the matter all danger of war at once disappeared. In these days war is scarcely conceivable over any ordinary, or even extraordinary, question, when a considerable body of the nations have agreed to meet in conference and attempt to find a joint pacific solution of the difficulty. Fifty, or even thirty, years ago the visit of Emperor William to Tangier would have resulted in hostilities within a month. But the times have changed, and the world, bad as it still is, has made great progress in good feeling and good sense.

The chief points in the history of the difficulty are these: In 1903 and 1904, because of unsettled conditions in Morocco, which affected more or less French control of Algeria, France made certain aggressions upon Morocco. To these Great Britain objected. In April, 1904, Great Britain and France concluded their now famous agreement for the settlement of all their outstanding differences. In this agreement France was allowed a free hand in reforms in Morocco, in consideration of her withdrawal of her objections to Great Britain's remaining in Egypt.

The result of this Anglo-French arrangement was that France was gradually acquiring control over the Moroccan government. She had already obtained possession of the custom houses, and was proceeding to take the army in charge. This aroused the Emperor of Germany, and led to his famous visit of March last. He is reported to have said in his interview with the Sultan at Tangier that Germany would not allow any power to interfere with her equality of economic and commercial rights in Morocco; that she would carry on her affairs with the Sultan direct, as a free sovereign, and not through any intermediary.

Upon learning of this interview the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Delcassé, declared that France's policy in Morocco would continue as before, and that she did not pretend to base her interests on disregard of the interests of others. All nations had an equal footing. But the